

poseful. arising from the effect upon  
 the young  
 of their parents' habits : so the giraffe  
 might  
 lengthen its neck by the striving of  
 giraffes to  
 reach higher foliage. Peculiarities  
 which were  
 of no direct advantage in the struggle  
 for life  
 might nevertheless be established  
 through their  
 influence in attracting the opposite sex.  
 " Sexual<sup>53</sup>  
 contributed to " natural " selection in  
 the develop-  
 ment of characteristics. Some years  
 ago this  
 hypothesis was almost universally  
 accepted by  
 science. It has since lost ground.  
 but its  
 straitest adherents have narrowed  
 and hardened  
 it by denying that either " mutations "  
 or the  
 inheritance of *acquired*, as opposed to  
 in-born.  
 aptitudes. have contributed at all to  
 evolutionary  
 progress.

It is difficult to believe that the  
 gradual  
 accumulation of small random  
 fluctuations could  
 have evolved such a complicated  
 structure as the  
 human eye. could have elaborated  
 instincts which  
 would be suicidal if not exercised from  
 the first  
 with the minutest accuracy and  
 instincts which  
 co-ordinate the behaviour of two  
 separate gen-  
 erations : or could have enabled  
 animals not  
 only to make better use of their  
 environment but  
 to migrate to another environment—as  
 from the  
 sea to the land. Nor is it evident how  
 fluctuations  
 incidental to individuals could have  
 crystallized  
 into the characters that mark a type—  
 could have  
 brought into existence a species. the  
 members of

which would not interbreed with  
their near  
relations. A still more serious objection  
is that  
fluctuations are swamped by sexual  
generation.  
It has been proved that any  
peculiarities of a  
father, which are inherited by his sons,  
are less  
fully developed in them—in fact, that  
the effect of  
sexual generation is constantly to  
repress eccentricity, and draw peculiarities back  
to the